

Product Panogen 42
Lot # 2085-100-B
Manufactured August 1965

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



431128

Soil contamination cleanup to be costly

Old fire department site to cost almost \$300,000 to remove City Hall oil

By Lee Raynor

Soil contaminated by decades of oil spills and other petroleum products will cost the city nearly \$300,000 to clean up.

The land, used now as a parking lot behind Brookfield City Hall, has been labeled as hazardous by the state Department of Natural Resources and must be cleaned up by this summer.

The site is one of four contaminated areas owned by the city. Three are classified as major spills and one is believed to be a smaller problem, according to Public Works Director William Muth.

The most serious contamination is believed to have occurred behind City Hall on the east side of the Parks and Recreation Department. The site formerly was the location of underground tanks and gas pumps. The pumps were for fueling the fire trucks housed there before the Fire Department moved to the new Safety Building.

Muth said that about 4,000 cubic yards of dirt must be removed and replaced. The contaminated area reaches all the way into an asphalt parking lot.

Before the area was paved with asphalt, it was covered with gravel. As recently as several years ago, oil was sprayed on dirt and gravel roads during the summer to reduce flying dust.

Muth expects excavation of the area to cost about \$48,000. Filling the hole will cost another \$223,560 and backfilling is expected to be an additional \$6,000. Engineering and soil analysis will be about \$20,000.

Although state funds are available for the work, reimbursement to communities can take as long as two years. There is no money in the 1993 city budget for the project.

A DNR representative reportedly told a member of the city's engineering department that asphalt grindings from roadwork could be mixed in equal parts with gravel to fill the excavation.

The city has a large pile of the grindings left over from road projects. Muth said the crumbled asphalt is about 20 years old and "as dry as powder." Mixing the product with gravel could save the city some money but Muth is waiting for written confirmation from the DNR before proceeding.

Three areas containing contaminated soil have been discovered at other municipal sites, primarily places where residents were allowed to dispose of used motor oil. The oil was collected and sold by the city. Recently, however, there has been no market for used oil.



A textbook stance

First-grader Marie Glorioso holds the ball in a classic position as she takes part in gym class with third-graders Ashlyn Martinek (left) and Dana Wold. Older and younger students were combined in a "buddy class" for gym during All-School Self-Esteem Week at Burleigh Elementary School.

(CNI photo by C.T. Kruger)